

and proud tradition of defending America. It also has a tradition of being the first. During World War II, Big Red One was the first to reach England, the first to capture a German city, the first to fight in North Africa, and the first on the beaches of Normandy on D-day. It was the first division to deploy to Vietnam and spearheaded the armored attack into Iraq at the start of Desert Storm. The Big Red One has a long and proud heritage that we should honor and celebrate.

On August 1, 2006, I was proud to welcome the Big Red One's headquarters back to Fort Riley, KS. The division has a vital, new mission of training military transition teams for both Iraq and Afghanistan. This intense training is meant to prepare our finest military members to train their counterparts in the Iraqi and Afghani militaries. We honor those soldiers who have committed to this mission. I also want to recognize the 1st Division soldiers operating today in some of Baghdad's toughest neighborhoods. They too take their place in the Big Red One's proud history.

On this 90th anniversary, June 8, 2007, I salute the men and women of the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One. The enormous sacrifice and dedication of these heroic men and women should make all Americans proud. As they say in the 1st Division: "No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty first."

U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge the United States' crucial relationship with Russia. The fate of U.S.-Russia relations rests on key agreements regarding security, trade, and energy policies.

The annual G8 Summit taking place this week in Germany comes at a crucial time in our relationship with Russia, a key international trade, military, and security partner to the United States.

For decades after World War II, our military and national security policies focused mostly on the Soviet Union. At that time, both nations pursued a foreign policy dubbed "Mutually Assured Destruction."

In the early 1990s, with the support of the United States, new Russian leaders began instituting democratic reforms. As the political landscape in the Soviet Union improved, so did our relationship with Russia. Instead of destruction, our countries have pursued cooperation, though the Russians still have work to do on human rights. Certainly, recent actions by the Russian Government to limit freedoms, crack down on journalists, and inflict economic damage on its neighbors are cause for concern for the United States. Some of these concerns can and should be addressed through engagement and diplomacy with Russia.

Recently, relations between the United States and Russia have become

strained, with the rhetoric between the nations exacerbating the problem. As the G8 meetings commence, it is imperative that the U.S. Government engage Russia on the vital security, trade, and energy policies important to both nations.

Last week, as cochairman of the U.S. Senate-Russia interparliamentary working group, I held 3 days of meetings in Moscow with legislators and top Russian officials, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, to discuss our mutual economic and security interests.

The Russians were united on key matters. First, they question U.S. intent with regard to deployment of missile and radar systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. Second, they would prefer an extended timetable on independence for Kosovo. They also identified vital security matters where they and we Americans can work together, specifically, halting Iran's nuclear program and the spread of global terrorism. While we may have disagreed on the appropriate manner in which to address the emerging threat of Iran's nuclear program and the amount of time in which we have to do so, Russian officials were clear that, like me, they believe Iran's ultimate goal in developing nuclear power is to produce a nuclear weapon.

Our delegation's message to the Russians was clear as well: we can work out differences over missile defense, Kosovo and other issues, but the Russians need to step up and assist the global community with Iran and terrorism in Iraq. Cooperation is critical to the success of our relationship.

In addition, Russia has tremendous economic potential. They have registered 5 percent or better economic growth in each year since 1999 and 6.7 percent in 2006. Personal income grew 10 percent in 2006. However, this growth has impacted mostly urban areas such as Moscow or St. Petersburg, and more needs to be done to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

U.S. exports to Russia for the first 11 months of 2006 totaled \$7.8 billion. U.S. foreign direct investment in Russia in 2005 was \$5.5 billion, up from \$3.8 billion in 2004. Russians are buying American products and services—it seemed that every fifth car in Moscow was a Ford. But we can do better by helping to raise the standard of living in Russia to advance democratic reforms.

Russia is now working to join the World Trade Organization, WTO. The United States maintains an obscure trade law, known in Washington-speak as "Jackson-Vanik," that would limit U.S. business trade and investment in WTO-member Russia because the law prevents normalized trade relations between the two countries. While the original intent of this trade law was admirable, it is now widely believed to be antiquated and remains only as yet another Cold War relic, this time hindering future progress in opening permanent normal trade relations between

Russia and the United States. If Jackson-Vanik remains in place, Russian businesses would not suffer alone upon Russia's accession to the WTO; U.S. businesses would also suffer while businesses from around the globe prosper in Russia's increasingly valuable markets. Congress needs to "graduate" Russia from this trade provision so U.S. firms can compete with foreign firms on the economically fertile ground in Russia.

Finally, as with other allies, important and controversial matters between the United States and Russia will continue to arise. Energy production and supply, for example, is an important national security matter for the United States and its allies. Russia's state-controlled energy company, Gazprom, is building an intricate pipeline system which will control natural gas flow to European countries. It currently supplies about 25 percent of Europe's natural gas, with higher percentages to some former Soviet European states. About 40 percent of crude oil exports move to Europe through a pipeline system. They plan to expand to North America. Russia has already exploited the dependence of Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Georgia on its energy resources. Without cooperation and understanding between our countries, this system could leave the United States vulnerable in the future to gas supplies controlled by the Russians.

Mikhail Margelov, my Russian counterpart in the working group, said that the U.S.-Russia alliance must be strong for the future of both countries. He is right. Collaboration can bring about change for the good. Negotiation can resolve conflicts. Strong relations can solidify Russia's democracy.

The administration should use the G8 Summit as an opportunity to engage Russia on these key security, trade and energy policy matters. It is in the national security interests of the United States to have a strong relationship with a democratic Russia.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SURVIVAL FLIGHT TEAM

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I wish today to pay tribute to the six members of the University of Michigan Survival Flight team who perished this past Monday when their plane tragically crashed into Lake Michigan during an organ transplant mission. On behalf of the people of Michigan, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the victims' families. These brave men put their lives on the line to save the lives of those in need of urgent medical care. They touched countless families through their work and the goodness of their hearts and stand as examples to all of us as modern-day Good Samaritans.

Richard Chenault II, 44, from Ann Arbor, was hoping to get back to Michigan on time Monday to attend

the Father Gabriel Richard High School sports banquet. He was being honored for coach of the year in both girls track and girls cross-country. He never made it but is remembered by the students and faculty at the school as a mentor, teacher, and friend.

Richard LaPensee, of Ypsilanti, fought fires for 18 years while serving as an emergency medical technician. He immediately jumped at the chance to work as a University of Michigan life flight medical technician 3 years ago. On Monday morning, Richard had just finished a 24-hour firefighter shift before embarking on the transplant flight.

Dr. David Ashburn, 35, of Dexter, was a cardiac surgery resident at the University of Michigan. He was looking to begin his pediatric cardiac surgery fellowship in July. Dr. Ashburn was a dedicated family man who enjoyed turkey hunting in the wilderness of Michigan.

Dr. Martinus Spoor, 37, of Ann Arbor, was a regular when it came to the air transplant business, making roughly 10 flights a year. Dr. Spoor was known by his friends and family as a "gentle and kind human being" and taught heart valve repair techniques to medical students.

Dennis Hoyes, 65, of Blackman Township, was a man who loved to fly. A retired small business owner, Dennis would often spend his days at the Jackson County Airport and worked as an adjunct flight instructor for Jackson Community College's aviation program. Dennis would always give a free lesson to anyone who asked.

Bill Serra, 59, of Macomb Township, had over 12,000 hours of flight time from small planes to 747s. During the Persian Gulf war, Bill worked as a civilian pilot delivering material and ammunition to U.S. forces. The Air Force honored Bill in 1993 for his dedicated service.

Our State of Michigan lost real heroes Monday—heroes who gave back to their communities without fanfare or personal gain, heroes who did their dangerous work out of passion, dedication, and a desire to make the world a better place.

Unfortunately, we often take these heroes for granted, forgetting that their dedication to service comes at life-threatening risk.

The stories of these six men serve as a proud reminder that all of us can give back, that all of us can contribute, and that there are heroes all around us in our communities, our families, and our States. Michigan can never express how proud we are of these individuals' service, and the Michigan family joins the Chenaults, the LaPensees, the Ashburns, the Spoors, the Hoyes, and the Serras in mourning the passing of these brave men.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2007 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

• Mr. DODD. Madam President, this April, more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, an educational program developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Trumbull High School of Trumbull, CT, received an Honorable Mention Award at this prestigious national event. Seven Honorable Mention Awards were presented to schools placing 4th through 10th on the final day of competition. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capitol and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

I am also pleased to note that the We the People curriculum is aligned with the National Standards for Civics and Government and correlates with the social studies standards of many states.

The names of these outstanding students from Trumbull High School are: Alexa Alexander, Akanksha Bajaj, Rebecca Chadwick, Chelsea Clyde, Ashley Cohen, Shane Connolly, Victoria Costello, Mulan Cui, Megan Denstedt, Jackson Dolan, Adam Drenkard, Mike Finik, George Fitzpatrick, Casey Gardiner, Blake Ludwig, Alex Mosello, Elisa Odoardi, Alison Ornitz, Matt Pankracij, Mary Santella, Jaclyn Siegel, Matt Socha, Edward Tillstrand, and Stephen Wagner.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Mike Margonis, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition are Jim Schmidt and Julie Jaquish, the State coordinators, and Lorna Gallagher, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my state.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.●

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY WHITWORTH

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I would like to express my deep appre-

ciation to Peggy Whitworth, executive director of Iowa's only national trust property, Brucemore. Brucemore, located in Cedar Rapids, IA, is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and Peggy has been Brucemore's only executive director during that quarter century. During this time, her leadership, creativity, and "can-do" attitude have made Brucemore a model nonprofit organization and an eastern Iowa landmark.

This past December, Peggy was awarded the National Trust President's Award for her years of dedicated service to Brucemore, as well as for her advocacy of preservation. I would like to add my voice to those honoring Peggy and her work. She is respected not just in Iowa but across the country as a champion for preservation and the promotion of cultural attractions. Her labors on behalf of historical preservation have helped inspire people in other communities to preserve and honor the important architectural, cultural and historic contributions from our past.

Twenty five years ago, when Brucemore was bequeathed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the idea was to use the mansion for community meetings and activities. That limited perspective did not last long. Under Peggy's leadership, Brucemore has come to offer a full schedule of events, including Bluesmore, Classics at Brucemore, Cabaret in the Courtyard, as well as tours of the mansion which draw nearly 30,000 people annually.

Peggy has also been active in promoting culture and tourism attractions as an economic development tool. In addition to her work at Brucemore, Peggy has served five terms on the Iowa State Historical Society board, including chairing the board. She serves on the Terrace Hill Foundation. And she was recently appointed to the Board of Pharmacy Examiners by Iowa Governor Chet Culver.

Peggy Whitworth is planning to retire later this year. Her leadership and vision will be greatly missed. And we are deeply grateful for her many contributions to the cultural richness of Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT HAROLD GEORGE DANLEY

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a man who died in the service of his country 64 years ago but never received the proper recognition he was due.

Harold George Danley was one of four brothers from Lincoln, NE, who joined the armed services during World War II. Three of those brothers returned home to their families; Sergeant Danley, who was 22 years old, did not.

Sergeant Danley was serving in the 18th Army/Air Force Anti-Submarine Squadron aboard a B-24D Bomber, which crashed while patrolling the east coast of the United States somewhere